



FIRELINE

AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE WASHINGTON FIRE COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION

DECEMBER 2008

State Budget Update

By Roger Ferris, Executive Secretary

On June 5, 2008 the WFCA Legislative Committee met with Governor Gregoire's Chief of Staff, Marty Brown, to review the state's budget deficit. Discussion centered on the direct and indirect impacts the budget deficit could have on local governments such as counties, cities and particularly fire protection districts. Mr. Brown's overview was very somber and on **June 5** the budget deficit was approximately \$2 billion.

The WFCA Legislative Committee met November 19 and received an update from the State Revenue Forecast Council which projects a *\$5.1 billion revenue shortfall* on the amount needed to fund current state programs for the mid-2009 to mid-2011 biennial budget. The \$5.1 billion gap is a projection only and will change between now and March. My opinion is it will probably widen even further!

This is an extraordinary situation; however, I am confident we will be able to weather the storm...

As you have read in the news print media or have seen on television, the Governor has repeatedly said she will manage the state's finances without any tax increases. The Legislature commences on Monday, January 12, 2009; Governor Gregoire and the Legislature must come up with hefty cuts in state programs in order to balance the budget. This will have both direct and indirect impacts on local governments. We will have a better idea of the severity of the crisis when the Governor releases her budget later this month.

The WFCA will be reviewing the state budget for possible negative impacts in the following areas:

- ♦ Volunteer firefighter and reserve police officer pension funds.
- ♦ Emergency medical services and trauma care fund.
- ♦ E-911 account (diversion of funds).
- ♦ Suspension of LEOFF 2 pension payments and possible "borrowing" from all retirement programs administered by the state.
- ♦ DNR fire suppression funding.
- ♦ Funding for mobilization.

I want to stress that these are some areas that we will be examining for possible reductions; none of the above have been identified in any budget documents, but will be monitored as the process moves forward. On a much larger scale, the following areas will have to be examined for proposed budgets:

- ♦ Initiative 728 dollars for reduction in K-12 class size.
- ♦ State employee salary increases—rescinded (this will be subject to collective bargaining).

See Budget on Page Two

2009 WFCA Board Of Directors

The following individuals were elected at conference to serve on the 2009 WFCA Board of Directors.

OFFICERS

President:

Bill Gates, S. King Fire & Rescue

Vice President:

Robert Skaggs, Graham Fire & Rescue

Secretary-Treasurer:

Les Riel, Yakima 4

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A Message from the President by Joe Dawson



After penning twelve "Message from the President" articles for the *Fireline* over the past two years the time has come to say good-bye.

My last message to you as your President would be insufficient without a gracious thank you to the board, staff and you the general membership of the WFCA.

I have been blessed over the past two years to meet many new people, to develop new friendships and throughout I have always felt that I was treated with dignity and respect. I want to thank all of you for that.

Although I will have the pleasure of serving on the board for another year in the capacity of immediate past

president I want to take this opportunity to wish incoming President Bill Gates and the rest of the Board the very best in 2009.

...Bill has graciously volunteered to present a workshop on parliamentary procedure for any region....

Most of you know Bill Hansen, the WFCA parliamentarian. I don't know what we would do without Bill's sage advice at conference time. Bill not only is a member of the National Association of Parliamentarians, he also has the honor of receiving an international award, "Distinguished Communicator" presented in

Scotland in 1992 by the International Training in Communication (ITC).

I told Bill that his expertise could be very valuable to our general membership. To that end, Bill has graciously volunteered to present a workshop on parliamentary procedure for any of the regions or county associations that would like to avail themselves of that opportunity. The expense for such a workshop would qualify for the Regional Education Program funds available from the WFCA. If interested, Bill can be contacted through the WFCA office.

In closing, I hope you all have an enjoyable holiday season. And once again, thank you for the opportunity and privilege to serve as your President for the past two years. It has been an honor to do so.

Budget From Page One

- ◆ Technical and four-year college tuition increases with cuts in tuition waivers.
- ◆ Enrollment in basic health plan frozen.
- ◆ State hiring freeze.
- ◆ Across the board state agency budget reductions.
- ◆ Various cuts in boards and commissions
- ◆ Tap state's Rainy Day Fund.

The state Legislature and Governor are going to have to make some very difficult decisions while they analyze and debate throughout the budget process.

Your WFCA lobbyists and I will be meeting with other local government

associations to review proposals from the Governor, House and Senate and will keep you updated through legislative reports emailed every Friday beginning January 23.

A Legislative Committee report and WFCA priority papers, as well as a comprehensive report on the Chelan Seminar legislative priorities will be sent to each commissioner, chief and administrative assistant/district secretary in late December.

This is an extraordinary situation; however, I am confident that we will be able to weather the storm and continue to provide emergency medical and fire protection services to the citizens of the state of Washington.

ON THE WEB

There's lots of information on the WFCA website! Committee descriptions and members, educational programs, press releases...the list goes on! Make a point to visit www.wfca.wa.gov and be sure to call the office at 1.800.491.9233 if you need any help navigating the site.



60th Annual Conference Recap

The WFCAs 60th Annual Conference was held October 23-25 at the Doubletree Hotel in SeaTac. The following is a recap of conference.

MANAGEMENT EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Congratulations to the 2008 Management Excellence Award participants for their great work. Winners include:



Category A (\$1M+ Budget)

1st Place: Graham Fire & Rescue (*Commissioners Verne Pierson, Jerry Gustafson & Bob Skaggs pictured l-r*)
2nd Place: Clark Co. FPD 6
3rd Place: S. King Fire & Rescue

Category B (Budget of \$500,000 - \$999,999): No entries



Category C (\$250-499K Budget)

1st Place: Skagit Co. FPD 13 (*Commissioners Jim Grove, Chuck Hedlund, Skip Cooper & Exec. Dir. Roy Horn pictured l-r*)

Category D (Budget under \$250,000)



1st Place: Jefferson Co. FPD 4 (*District Secretary Peggy Ware pictured at left*)
2nd Place: Snoqualmie Pass Fire & Rescue
3rd Place: Mason Co. FPD 18

COMMISSIONER RECOGNITION

Commissioner recognition awards, honoring service for 10, 15, 20 and 25 years, were presented as follows:

10 Year Award (Honorary Life Membership)



10-Year Award Recipients

Scott Carpenter (Benton 1), Lewis Rouse (Benton 2), Tom Hughes & Ronald Shuck (Franklin 3), Gary Bradley & Loren Murray (Camano Isl. Fire & Rescue), Ronald Muzzall (Island 2), Roger Hershey (S. King Fire & Rescue), Dave Gelsleichter (S. Kitsap Fire & Rescue), Richard Anderson (Lewis 15), Fred Hill & Gregory McLeod (Pacific 1), James Bosch (Pierce 16), Lee Boling (Spokane 8), Ken Parsons, Sr. (Thurston 8), John Ricks (Thurston 11), Alan Mehlenbacher (Walla Walla 5), Bill Salter (Whatcom 21).

15 Year Award

Larry Howell (Benton 2), Steven Hora (Grays Harbor 3), Lindsay Chatterton (Lewis 15), Orval French (Yelm Fire District), Brad Langdell (Walla Walla 5).

20 Year Award

Dennis Waters (Walla Walla 5).

25 Year Award

Ronald Garrison (Jefferson 4), Peter Walton (Snohomish 15).

SPECIAL APPRECIATION

The association would like to thank the following individuals and companies whose contributions and support helped make the conference such a success:

Instructors/presenters Frank Chmelik, Rich Davis, Greg McLeod, Robert Merritt, John Pennington, Mark Rapozo, Brian Snure, Joe Quinn, Bob Vellias and Lt. Col. Rob "Waldo" Waldman for sharing their expertise...

Education Committee Chair Les Riel and members Ken Anderson, Lee Boling, Bob Miller, Robert Muhleman, Verne Pierson and Roy Waugh for selecting pertinent topics for the conference workshops and assisting with introductions of instructors...

Conference Host Committee Chair Roger Hershey and the participating West Side Fire Districts, County Associations and Commissioners; your warm "welcome to conference reception" offered good food and good company!

King County Fire Commissioners who assisted with the opening ceremonies...

Monte Nesbitt, Bob Muhleman, Dwight VanderVorste, Carol Harrington and Sharon Colby for assisting with speeches and presentations...

Sergeant-at-Arms Linn "Penny" Dollar, Jr. and Parliamentarian William Hansen for their service and good work on behalf of the association...

Thursday morning breakfast buffet sponsors Emergency Services Insurance Program and Rice, Fergus Miller Architecture & Planning for an excellent meal, a great conference kick-off and their continued support...

Refreshment break sponsors Enduris of Washington, Mercer Health & Benefits, TCA Architecture-Planning and HealthForce Partners for their continued support of the WFCAs...

Silent Auction Co-Chairs and Coordinators Lois Hensley, Kim Burrus, Carmy Buttice, Kathy McNulty and Janice Langdell for their work on behalf of the Auction which benefits the Harborview Burn Center...

The conference could not happen without the assistance of all of the above-mentioned individuals and companies, as well as the fire commissioners, chiefs, secretaries and others who attended. Thank you and see you next year at the Spokane Doubletree (October 22-24).

Ads

FOR SALE by Mason 2: '99 Ford E-350 Northstar Braun NW amb, 119,572 mi, Whelen emerg lighting pkg & Fed PA300 siren, bench seating, rear-facing Capt's chair, a Unisar med fridge & FERNO gurney. Rec all req maint & rec annual WSP insp. 7.3L V-8 pwrstroke dies, AT w/ O'drive, loaded w/options incl AC, tilt, cruise, AM-FM stereo, front & rear heat heavy duty "severe svc" pkg. Sale "AS IS" for \$15,000. Contact Capt Cooper, 360.275.6711 Ex 502, scooper@mcfid2.com.

FOR SALE by Okanogan 6: 2ea-2100 gal Folda Tank w/metal frame, \$500/OBO; 2 ea-300 gal fiberg L shape tank, \$700/OBO; 3 ea-Metal frame hose reel w/100' of rubber hose, \$200/OBO. Sale "as is, where is"; no warr expressed/implied. Contact Chief Waller @ 509.997.2981, PO Box 895, Winthrop, WA 98862.

FOR SALE by Thurston 1: '83 Ford Darley Eng, 3208 225hp cat engine, Allison auto, 35,235 mi, 1000 gpm 2 stage champion Darley pump, PTO, 750 gal tank. Complete w/basic tools, hose, radio, light bar, siren. Sale "as is, where is", w/no warr expressed/implied. All offers considered, w/right to accept/reject any/all offers; contact Chief Scott at 360.273.5582.

FOR SALE by Milton Fire Dept.: SCBA's, Survivair Panther '97 Ed, purchased new '01, taken out of svc in '06. 22 SCBA's w/ 30min/4500 psi bottles; 42 - Spare 30 min/4500 psi bottles; 3 - RIT Bags w/ medium mask & regulator; 1 - RIT 60 min/4500 psi bottle; Masks - 2 L, 21 M, 9 Sm.; 21 - Voice Boxes. All reasonable bids considered. Contact Chief Jaques, 253.922.0944, jjaques@cityofmilton.net.

FOR SALE by Paradise Valley Fire Dept. (ID): American Bristol Portable Air Compressor. SCBA 4500 PSI + 2216 PSI. Fast-One. Fresh Air System Trailer. Compressor Pwr Sources: Elect 220/440 VAC 3 pH 10hp ac motor; Gas Wisconsin Motor; Model # W2-1230; Can run off of gas or electric. Compressor: Model #25 4 stage; Air Cooled 5000psi; Continuous Duty 18 scfm; Discharge rate; Inline CO 2 Monitor. Generator: 110/220 Volts 3000; Stationary Flood Light on tower; 15' High. Asking \$10,750 OBO. Email JockJohnson@BoundaryCountyFire.com or call 208.267.7909. Complete manuals avail for air compressor.

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT by E Pierce Fire & Rescue: Dist recruiting qualified applicants to fill Fire Chief's position which is vacant due to the untimely line of duty death of former chief. Chief reports to the Board of Comm. Located in E Pierce Co, just west of Tacoma between Seattle & Olympia, this active, progressive fire dept serves a pop base of 74,000+ residing w/i its response area. A budget of approx \$21M allows 85 career ff, 5 chief ofcra, 10 admin support & 40 vol to offer a full range of fire suppr, prev, rescue & EMS (BLS/ALS transport) svcs from 11 stations. On average, there are over 6,500 annual calls for svc. Apparatus, equip & facilities are up to date & well maint. Salary range: \$130,000-\$150,000 DOQ. Exc ben package. Employment contract w/12-mo probation period. For recruitment pkg or add'l info, contact ESCi @ 800.757.3724 or fax 503.570.0522. All materials, incl job qualify & req, avail for download at www.esci.us. Application deadline is 4 pm PST, 1/22/09.

Board From Page One



2009 officers take their oath at the recent conference. *Pictured:* President Gates, Vice President Skaggs & Secretary-Treasurer Riel.

REGIONAL DIRECTORS

Region 2:

Emilio Buttice, Walla Walla 4

Region 4:

Ken Eakin, Yakima 12

Region 6:

James Farrell, Mountain View Fire and Rescue

Region 7:

Gerald Strong, Littlerock Fire Rescue (appointed by Region 7 to fill the unexpired term vacated by Bob Skaggs)

Region 8:

Keith Merritt, Cowlitz 2 Fire & Rescue

These individuals will join existing WFCB Board Directors Sharon Colby, Spokane 3 (Region 1); Dennis Bjork, Grant 5 (Region 3); Steve Lich, Camano Island Fire & Rescue (Region 5); Mick McKinley (Region 9) and Immediate Past President Joe Dawson (Spokane Valley Fire Department).

Congratulations to those elected to the 2009 WFCB Board of Directors!

The Board and staff wish to thank Mark Thompson (South King Fire & Rescue Commissioner), outgoing Region 6 Director, for his years of service to the association!



Pete Spiller to Retire From WFCA

By Roger Ferris, Nora Eylenfeldt, Sandy Babcock and Amber Brown

The WFCA's longest serving employee, Pete Spiller, will retire on December 31. While Pete has "retired" from several positions he has held with the WFCA, *this is the real deal*.

Pete started his WFCA career in 1979 when he was hired as Executive Secretary. In addition to his many accomplishments, Pete was instrumental in creating the Insurance Rate Stabilization Reserve Account. This account, which holds surplus health care premium dollars, was set up to protect the association from catastrophic loss and to benefit districts that participate in the WFCA-sponsored health care program. Those who worked with Pete in the early days will recall the dream of reaching a \$1 million reserve. Not only did that dream become a reality, but today the reserve account *exceeds \$14 million* with over 120 fire districts participating in the health care plan.

Pete retired as executive secretary in 1990, passing the duties on to Roger. He wanted to focus his energies on the legislative arena, lobbying until 1998, when he became Health Care Manager. Pete also served as Health Care Finance Officer for several years offering judicious oversight of the association's health care funds.

Pete hired three out of the four of us (Roger, Nora and Sandy). He instilled in us the desire to excel and to help fire districts, large and small. Thanks in large part to Pete, we continue to strive to meet the high standards he set for us and take great pride in our team.

Those of us in the office will miss Pete, although we are very fortunate that our friendship will continue. Perhaps it is the association that will feel his absence most, as the WFCA is a much better organization because of his guidance, leadership and vision.

Congratulations, Pete. We wish you the very best in your retirement!



Pictured: Soup Lady Kelli Reiter, KCFD #44 Chief Greg Smith, Soup Lady Ginger "Mama" Passarelli, KCFD #44 Fire Commissioners James Farrell and Joanne Seng, Black Diamond City Council Member Rebecca Olness and Soup Lady Mary Jo Kahler standing in front of the mobile kitchen.

King County Commissioners Donate to the Soup Ladies

A group of dedicated individuals known as the "Soup Ladies" are located in south east King County, operating out of the City of Black Diamond.

The Soup Ladies have been feeding emergency responders in King County for several years; they have traveled to California to feed firefighters and Louisiana to feed emergency workers responding to Hurricane Katrina. Ginger "Mama" Passarelli also supplied snacks and hors d'oeuvres at this year's fire commissioners' conference, at no charge.

The King County Fire Commissioners wanted to support the Soup Ladies in their mission to feed emergency workers by donating \$500 to help supply the Soup Ladies and their new mobile kitchen. The check was presented to "Mama" Passarelli by King County Fire District 44 Commissioners James Farrell and Joanne Seng and King 44 Chief Greg Smith on behalf of the King County Fire Commissioners Association. The occasion took place at Mama Passarelli's Dinner House in Black Diamond, Washington.

"Mama" Passarelli was happy to receive the much needed money and plans to put it to use right away. The Soup Ladies recently received a mobile kitchen funded by donations and grants and now they need to supply the kitchen with pots, pans, utensils and other items.

WASHINGTON FIRE COMMISSIONERS ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 134
OLYMPIA WA 98507

(360) 943-3880
1-800-491-WFCA (9322)
FAX (360) 664-0415

WFCA@WFCA.WA.GOV
WWW.WFCA.WA.GOV

LOCATION

605 11TH AVE. S.E.
SUITE 205
OLYMPIA WA 98501

OFFICE HOURS

8:30AM - 4:30PM
MONDAY - FRIDAY

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VICE PRESIDENT BILL GATES • S KING FIRE & RESCUE
SECRETARY | TREASURER LES RIEL • YAKIMA 4

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REGION 2 EMILIO BUTTICE • WALLA WALLA 4
REGION 3 DENNIS BJORK • GRANT 5
REGION 4 KEN EAKIN • YAKIMA 12
REGION 5 STEVE LICH • CAMANO ISLAND FIRE & RESCUE
REGION 6 MARK THOMPSON • S KING FIRE & RESCUE
REGION 7 ROBERT SKAGGS • GRAHAM FIRE & RESCUE
REGION 8 KEITH MERRITT • COWLITZ 2 FIRE & RESCUE
REGION 9 MICK MCKINLEY • CENTRAL KITSAP FIRE & RESCUE

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

ROGER FERRIS

THE OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THIS PUBLICATION ARE NOT NECESSARILY THOSE OF
THE WFCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND/OR MEMBERSHIP.



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